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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

As we begin our second year as a merged organization, but more significantly the 127th year as the oldest civil engineering organization in the country, I want to thank you for your expressions of confidence and support. During the next year, my best efforts will be directed to improving the position of the individual engineer as well as that of engineering firms. At the same time, we will not diminish our efforts to provide the best technical programs, Newsletter and Journal possible.

We are being caught in a struggle to increase engineers' salaries and professional status on the one hand, while at the same time, continuing to oppose those persistent Federal and other governmental agencies who would have all engineering done at the lowest prices obtainable with little or no regard for quality. When price becomes a factor in the selection of an engineer or engineering firm, it becomes *the* factor because it is easily comparable. We engineers all know quality of work is of extreme importance to the success of any project, and one cannot hope to achieve the best quality at the lowest price. Logically, the best quality engineering will result in the most economical, efficient, total project. The challenge to educate the public in this regard is ours, individually and collectively.

In our own Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the Board of Registration of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors needs our continued support. Last year a bill to replace it by a state administratively-staffed board failed, but similar thoughts are being heard again this year. Only with qualified professional engineers and land surveyors, as we now have on the Board, can intelligent and knowledgeable decisions be made on the qualifications and experience of applicants.

Thus on the national, state and local levels, events continue to occur that could directly affect not only engineers but the general public as well. Let's make a special effort to keep abreast of these happenings and to make our voice heard.

On the technical side, this Journal provides a unique means to inform our professional colleagues of important engineering work. Although the ASCE has technical division Journals which also publish technical papers, our Journal provides the opportunity for our members to publish their high quality work. We are not in competition with ASCE Journals; rather we are complementary and compatible. Let's make use of this facility.

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